

The First Sunday of Advent

November 27, 2016

10:30 AM

*We welcome you to worship today. It is a privilege to have you as our guest.
As you enter the sanctuary, begin to worship quietly with personal prayer.
Please turn off your cell phone and turn your thoughts toward God.*

We prepare for worship

Take a moment and meditate on this as you prepare for worship...

Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save, or his ear dull, that it cannot hear; but your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear.

Isaiah 59:1, 2

Prelude

Mrs. Gloria Hague, Director of Music

We praise our great God

Call to Worship and Lighting of the Advent Wreath (responsive)

The Advent wreath is a circle with no beginning and no end. It is a symbol of God's unending love and faithfulness.

The prophet Isaiah said, "The Lord himself will give you a sign: the virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel" (7:14).

The angel Gabriel said to Mary, "Greetings you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you" (Luke 1:28).

We rejoice that we too have found favor with God.

God's mercy extends to those who fear him from generation to generation.

We light this candle as a symbol of our Hope, who has come into the world.

*Hymn No. 194

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Veni Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy tribes on Sinai's height,
In ancient times didst give the law in cloud and majesty and awe.

O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell thy people save, and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.

O come, thou Day-spring from on high, and cheer us by thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.

O come, thou Key of David, come and open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high and close the path to misery.

*Invocation

We embrace Christ our Savior

Confession of Sin (unison)

based on Psalm 25

Remember, O Lord, your great mercy and love, for they are from of old. Remember not our sins or our rebellious ways. For the sake of your holy name, O Lord, forgive our iniquity, for it is great. But you, O God, are good and upright as you instruct sinners in your ways. So also guide us to do what is right. Help us to live each moment in the light of the last moment still to come when you

return in glory. On that day, grant that we may be found ready, waiting and eager to take our place in your kingdom of peace. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

*Assurance of Pardon (Pastor)

Isaiah 54:8; 43:25; 44:22

With everlasting love I will have compassion on you says the LORD your Redeemer... I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions for my own sake, and remembers them no more... I have swept away your offenses like a cloud, your sins like the morning mist. Return to me, for I have redeemed you.

*Confession of Faith (unison)

The Westminster Larger Catechism, Q. 20

What was the providence of God toward man in the estate in which he was created? **The providence of God toward man in the estate in which he was created, was the placing him in Paradise, appointing him to dress it, giving him liberty to eat of the fruit of the earth;¹ putting the creatures under his dominion,² and ordaining marriage for his help;³ affording him communion with Himself;⁴ instituting the Sabbath;⁵ entering into a covenant of life with him, upon condition of personal, perfect, and perpetual obedience,⁶ of which the tree of life was a pledge;⁷ and forbidding to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, upon the pain of death.⁸**

¹ Gen. 2:8, 15, 16 ² Gen. 1:28 ³ Gen. 2:18 ⁴ Gen. 1:26-29; 3:8 ⁵ Gen. 2:3 ⁶ Gen. 3:12; Rom. 10:5
⁷ Gen. 2:9 ⁸ Gen. 2:17

*Hymn No. 197

Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

Thirsting

Comfort, comfort ye my people, speak ye peace thus saith our God;
Comfort those who sit in darkness, mourning 'neath their sorrow's load.
Speak ye to Jerusalem of the peace that waits for them;
Tell her that her sins I cover, and her warfare now is over.

Yea, her sins our God will pardon, blotting out each dark misdeed;
All that well deserved his anger he no more will see or heed.
She hath suffered many a day, now her griefs have passed away;
God will change her pining sadness into ever springing gladness.

For the herald's voice is crying in the desert far and near,
Bidding all men to repentance, since the kingdom now is here.
O that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God away;
Let the valleys rise to meet him, and the hills bow down to greet him.

Make ye straight what long was crooked, make the rougher places plain;
Let your hearts be true and humble, as befits his holy reign,
For the glory of the Lord now o'er earth is shed abroad;
And all flesh shall see the token, that his word is never broken.

Old Testament Reading

Zechariah 1:18-2:13 (ESV)

A Vision of Horns and Craftsmen

¹⁸ And I lifted my eyes and saw, and behold, four horns! ¹⁹ And I said to the angel who talked with me, "What are these?" And he said to me, "These are the horns that have scattered Judah, Israel, and Jerusalem." ²⁰ Then the LORD showed me four craftsmen. ²¹ And I said, "What are these coming to do?" He said, "These are the horns that scattered Judah, so that no one raised his head. And these have come to terrify them, to cast down the horns of the nations who lifted up their horns against the land of Judah to scatter it."

A Vision of a Man with a Measuring Line

² And I lifted my eyes and saw, and behold, a man with a measuring line in his hand! ² Then I said, "Where are you going?" And he said to me, "To measure Jerusalem, to see what is its width and what is its length." ³ And behold, the angel who talked with me came forward, and another angel came forward to meet him ⁴ and said to him, "Run, say to that young man, 'Jerusalem shall be inhabited as villages without

walls, because of the multitude of people and livestock in it. ⁵ And I will be to her a wall of fire all around, declares the LORD, and I will be the glory in her midst.”

⁶ Up! Up! Flee from the land of the north, declares the LORD. For I have spread you abroad as the four winds of the heavens, declares the LORD. ⁷ Up! Escape to Zion, you who dwell with the daughter of Babylon. ⁸ For thus said the LORD of hosts, after his glory sent me to the nations who plundered you, for he who touches you touches the apple of his eye: ⁹ “Behold, I will shake my hand over them, and they shall become plunder for those who served them. Then you will know that the LORD of hosts has sent me.

¹⁰ Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion, for behold, I come and I will dwell in your midst, declares the LORD. ¹¹ And many nations shall join themselves to the LORD in that day, and shall be my people. And I will dwell in your midst, and you shall know that the LORD of hosts has sent me to you. ¹² And the LORD will inherit Judah as his portion in the holy land, and will again choose Jerusalem.”

¹³ Be silent, all flesh, before the LORD, for he has roused himself from his holy dwelling.

Aisquith Life and Opportunities

The Prayers of God’s People and the Lord’s Prayer (in unison)

We respond in gratitude for God’s blessing

**The Doxology (Hymnal, pg. 731)* and Prayer of Dedication

God’s Tithes and Our Offerings

The Offertory

Musical Interlude

After the Offertory, children grades 1-4 may recess for Children’s Church through the side door, or may remain with their families.

We hear God speak

Scripture Reading

Genesis 2:4-17

(Pew Bible pg. 2)

The Creation of Man and Woman

⁴ These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens.

⁵ When no bush of the field was yet in the land and no small plant of the field had yet sprung up—for the LORD God had not caused it to rain on the land, and there was no man to work the ground, ⁶ and a mist was going up from the land and was watering the whole face of the ground— ⁷ then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature. ⁸ And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. ⁹ And out of the ground the LORD God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

¹⁰ A river flowed out of Eden to water the garden, and there it divided and became four rivers. ¹¹ The name of the first is the Pishon. It is the one that flowed around the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold.

¹² And the gold of that land is good; bdellium and onyx stone are there. ¹³ The name of the second river is the Gihon. It is the one that flowed around the whole land of Cush. ¹⁴ And the name of the third river is the Tigris, which flows east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.

¹⁵ The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. ¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”

Sermon

“A Perfect Place”

Pastor Bell

We respond to God's grace

*Hymn No. 230

Thou Who Wast Rich beyond All Splendor

French carol

Thou who wast rich beyond all splendor, all for love's sake becamest poor;
Thrones for a manger didst surrender, sapphire paved courts for stable floor.
Thou who was rich beyond all splendor, all for love's sake becamest poor.

Thou who art God beyond all praising, all for love's sake becamest man;
Stooping so low, but sinners raising, heav'ward by thine eternal plan.
Thou who art God beyond all praising, all for love's sake becamest man;

Thou who art love beyond all telling, Savior and King, we worship thee.
Emmanuel, within us dwelling, make us what thou wouldst have us be.
Thou who art love beyond all telling, Savior and King, we worship thee.

*Benediction and Three-Fold *Amen* (*Hymnal*, pg. 740)
Postlude

Danish

*Those who are able, please stand.

The Canticle Singers, under the direction of Wendy Wickham are presenting two concerts for Christmas: Friday, December 2nd at 7:30 PM at St. David's Church, 4700 Roland Ave., and Sunday, December 11th at 3:00 PM at Trinity Episcopal Church, 120 Allegheny Ave. in Towson. An offering will be taken.

If you can help to provide an occasional meal for our members who are sick or have been in the hospital, please speak to Mary Ann Kauffman. This is an important and meaningful ministry to those who are in need.

If you would like to place a poinsettia in the church for Christmas, the price is \$8.00 this year and you can sign up in the "Flower Book" in the narthex. Please put your money in a pink envelope, and write your name and "Christmas Flowers" on it. The deadline is next Sunday, December 1st.

Plan now to attend a free conference from Ravi Zacharias International Ministries on the topic of Understanding and Answering Islam. We will be broadcasting the conference live in room 11 on the video screen. Friday 7– 9:00 PM and Saturday 9:00 AM – 3:30 PM (with morning, lunch and afternoon breaks). You are welcome to attend only the parts you can make. There is no charge, but an offering basket will be available. You can find more information on the speakers at www.RZIMUAL.org. If you have any other questions, please contact Elder Tom Ley (443) 846-6362

THIS WEEK AT AISQUITH

TODAY	10:30 AM	Worship Children's Church (grades 1-4) No Youth Activities tonight!
TUESDAY	10:30 AM	Men's Bible Study (at the church) 10:30 AM Ladies' Bible Study (church library)
WEDNESDAY	6:30 PM	Bring-your-own-supper and Hymn Sing (7:15 PM) 7:30 PM Youth Bible Study (John's office)
THURSDAY	7:30 PM	Adult Choir rehearsal (third floor)
NEXT SUNDAY	9:00 AM	Sunday School (for all ages) 10:30 AM Worship and the Lord's Supper Children's Church (grades 1-4) 12:30 PM WIC Christmas Tea

Rev. Robert E. Bell, Pastor

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